

an economics professor at Eastern Connecticut State University. Yesterday, Dr. Free was honored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as one of four recipients of the U.S. Professors of the Year Award. I would like to congratulate Dr. Free, as well as Dr. Douglas Cooper, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Connecticut, the winner of the Professor of the Year award for the State of Connecticut.

This award is the only national honor that specifically recognizes excellence in teaching and mentoring at the undergraduate level. Over 300 nominees for the award were evaluated on their impact and involvement with students, their scholarly approach to teaching, their contributions to undergraduate education, and support from their colleagues and students.

Dr. Free, who received her doctorate from the University of Notre Dame, has taught economics at ECSU since 1983. During that time, she has distinguished herself among her peers through her commitment to her students and to teaching. She helped found the Connecticut Consortium for Learning and Teaching, a statewide organization devoted to promoting excellence in teaching. She is also a member of the Connecticut Campus Compact, which focuses on service learning.

Dr. Free's students know her as a professor who brings ideas from different academic fields into her classroom, and who creates new and innovative courses such as Economics of Professional Sports. She has also devoted her time and energy to improve academic advising and freshman orientation at ECSU. Her methods, techniques, and enthusiasm have won praise from fellow professors and students alike. In 2001, she was awarded the university's Distinguished Faculty Award.

Dr. Rhona Free is truly an inspiration, not only to students and teachers, but to all of us who strive to make this country a better place for our children and grandchildren. In a demanding profession, she has gone above and beyond her duties and responsibilities to truly make a difference in the lives of not only her own students, but students and professors throughout the State of Connecticut. I congratulate her on her accomplishments, and I wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MS. JUDITH MAYNARD

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to an extraordinary Vermonter, Ms. Judith Maynard, who was recently named a National Distinguished Principal. As one of 65 principals chosen nationwide, this award places Ms. Maynard in an elite class of educators.

Ms. Maynard has dedicated her life to the education and well-being of

Vermont children. After working her way through an undergraduate and two masters' degrees at the University of Vermont, she launched her career as an educator. For the past 26 years, Vermont students have benefited from her extraordinary leadership. She has served as the principal of Chamberlin School in South Burlington, Vermont for the last eleven years and headed the Folsom School in South Hero for 10 years before that.

At Chamberlin, Ms. Maynard sought out grant money to hire the district's first school social worker—helping prevent problems at home from damaging students' performance at school. She has reworked the school's curriculum to provide focused, cohesive instruction across grade levels. She has made a priority of spending as much time as possible with her students, personally tutoring them in math and never saying no to those students who want to read a book with her or discuss losing a tooth. And she has fought to ensure that her young students have access to a nutritious breakfast at school, providing them with the fuel they need to successfully get through the school day.

The impact of her efforts is clear. Standardized test results on mathematics problem solving for fourth-graders at her school have jumped in the last 2 years from 48 percent achieving the benchmark of success in 2002 to 70 percent in 2004. These are impressive gains by any measure.

Ms. Maynard's leadership demonstrates the importance of having strong, dedicated principals in each of our schools. Providing vision, direction and support to all who work under the schoolhouse roof ensures that our children receive the best possible education. Together they provide our children with the skills and confidence needed to achieve their goals and lead happy, meaningful lives. America's future depends on the efforts of exceptional educational leaders like Judith Maynard. I congratulate her for her success and salute her for her tireless dedication to the children of Vermont.●

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST JEREMY F. REGNIER, LITTLETON, NH

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and honor SP Jeremy F. Regnier of Littleton, NH for his service and supreme sacrifice in the service of his country.

Specialist Regnier demonstrated a willingness and dedication to serve and defend his country by joining the National Guard soon after this country was attacked in September 2001. Just as many of America's heroes have taken up arms in the face of dire threats, Jeremy too, dedicated himself to the defense of our ideals, values, freedoms, and way of life. His valor and service cost him his life, but earned him a place on the roll call of honor within the pantheon of heroes this country has produced.

Following basic training and a tour in the National Guard, Jeremy joined the regular Army as a Bradley Vehicle Crewman and was assigned to various units, eventually joining his comrades in 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. From this unit's home base in Fort Hood, TX, he would deploy in March 2004 to Iraq in pursuit of those who would threaten our way of life.

Throughout his short career, Jeremy developed a long list of accolades and experiences which testify to the dedication and devotion he held for the Army, his fellow soldiers, and his country. With tours in New Hampshire, Korea, Texas, and Iraq, Jeremy's expertise contributed greatly to his unit's successes and cemented his place as a participant in the great endeavor known as America. Jeremy was recognized for his service by the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

My condolences and prayers go out to Jeremy's family, and I offer them my deepest sympathies and most heartfelt thanks for the service, sacrifice, and example of their soldier, SP Jeremy Regnier. Jeremy exemplified the words of Daniel Webster who said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it." Because of his efforts, the liberty of this country is made more secure.●

TRIBUTE TO JIMMY RAY LOYLESS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jimmy Loyless, who has worked as a congressional fellow in my office since January of 2004. On behalf of my staff and the people of South Dakota, I would like to thank Jimmy for his hard work, his dedication, and his considerable contributions to my State and to this great Nation.

Jimmy chose a Presidential election year to join our staff to work on banking and tax issues, and he has spent the past year learning about what can and can't happen in the United States Senate in a politically charged atmosphere. Jimmy left the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, his home for the past 24 years, to spend a year learning about the legislative process. And what a year it has been.

Jimmy came on board around the time that a series of scandals rocked the mutual fund industry, and almost immediately Jimmy was called upon to sit through a long series of hearings and witnesses. While learning the nitty-gritty of an industry may not be the most glamorous of duties, I am hopeful that at the very least, Jimmy learned a thing or two that may help